

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A rare earth transition metal (RE-TM) alloy structure comprising a RE-TM alloy substrate and a noble metal diffusion barrier disposed thereon, ~~therein-wherein~~ the RE-TM alloy is a Sm-Co-Cu-Fe-T magnetic alloy, wherein T is at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of Zr, Hf, Ti, Mn, Cr, Nb, Mo, W, V, Ni, Ta and mixtures thereof, ~~magnetic alloy in which the rare earth element is samarium~~ and the noble metal diffusion barrier comprises platinum metal.
2. (Original) A structure according to claim 1, wherein the RE-TM alloy is a Sm-Co-Cu-Fe-Zr magnetic alloy.
3. (Previously Presented) A structure according to claim 1, wherein the noble metal layer is in direct contact with the alloy substrate on one side, the opposite side being exposed to the exterior environment.
4. (Previously Presented) A structure according to claim 1, which is a permanent magnet article.
5. (Original) A permanent magnet article of claim 4 which is an aerospace component.
6. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a structure according to claim 1, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.
7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of reducing rare earth metal depletion at the surface of a RE-TM permanent magnet, ~~which-wherein said~~ method comprises providing over the surface a noble metal diffusion barrier ~~barrier~~, wherein the RE-TM alloy is a Sm-Co-Cu-Fe-T magnetic alloy, wherein T is at least one transition metal element selected

from the group consisting of Zr, Hf, Ti, Mn, Cr, Nb, Mo, W, V, Ni, Ta and mixtures thereof, and the noble metal diffusion barrier comprises platinum metal.

8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the RE-TM permanent magnet is a ~~SM-TM~~ high temperature permanent magnet.

9. (Previously Presented) A structure according to claim 2, wherein the noble metal layer is in direct contact with the alloy substrate on one side, the opposite side being exposed to the exterior environment.

10. (Previously Presented) A structure according to claim 2, which is a permanent magnet article.

11. (Previously Presented) A structure according to claim 3, which is a permanent magnet article.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a structure according to claim 2, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a structure according to claim 3, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a structure according to claim 4, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a structure according to claim 5, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.